

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 131157Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8605

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

CAEHCR/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU 2668

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

US LIAISON OFFICE PEKING 0008

AMCONGEN HONGKONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2732

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG, CH

SUBJECT: NIGER-PRC RELATIONS

1. DURING CALL ON PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AUGUST 12, I REFERRED TO RECENT GON DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PRC AND ASKED WHETHER WE MIGHT EXPECT CHINESE MISSION HERE. KOUNTCHE CONFIRMED THAT PRC PLANNED ESTABLISH RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE AND THAT CHINESE TECHNICIANS WOULD BE TAKING OVER SOME OF ROC AID PROJECT, INCLUDING RICE CULTIVATION.

2. KOUNTCHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT GON DECISION SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS MOVE TO LEFT OR DECISION TO JOIN "SOCIALIST CAMP". NIGERRAD TAKEN THIS STEP BECAUSE PRC WAS FACT OF LIFE WHICH GON COULD NO LONGER IGNORE. HOWEVER, NIGER'S HISTORY AND TRADITIONS WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF CHINA AND ITS RELIGIOUS AND INDIVIDUALISTIC PEOPLE WHO ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PRIVATE OWNER-
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SHIP OF LAND COULD NEVER BE PERSUADED TO ADOPT CHINESE WAYS OR SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES. MODIBO KEITA OF MALI IN EARLY

SIXTIES TRIED TO APPLY SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES TO MALIAN SOCIETY WITHOUT SUCCESS AND NIGER WOULD NOT MAKE SAME MISTAKE.

3. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE BELIEVE GON'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PRC BASED ON A) EXPECTATION OF ADDITIONAL AID; B) DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE NEW INITIATIVES IN FOREIGN POLICY AND BREAK AWAY FROM FORMER GOVERNMENT'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ROC; AND C) INTEREST IN KEEPING IN STEP WITH AFRICAN AND THIRD WORLD COLLEAGUES.HECK

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